

Autobiography of Wachira Wahome Joseph

wachira wahome

Who is Wachira Wahome?

Introduction

I think my life has been quite worthwhile and I hope you will find my autobiography interesting. As well as all this I want people in other countries to know what a person in a different country's life is like.

This autobiography is about my life up till now from when I stood on a banana with bare feet to my holiday in Holland. I hope you will enjoy this book and I hope it will bring back memories from your past.

Hello there! My name is Joseph Wachira and I am 21 years old. At the present, I am studying at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) in my final year pursuing Bachelor's degree in Information Technology. I am extremely excited and grateful for the opportunity to provide some insights into my life and who I am. I would with much love and appreciation share my background with you.

Chapter One

I come from a loving family where I am rather fortunate to have supportive parents name Mr. and Mrs. Wahome. Along with them, I have three siblings named John, Stephen and Peter. We reside in Nyeri County, Kieni East District, and Kabaru Ward, where we cherish spending quality time together engaging in various activities. My parents have always been my role models. Both of my parents emphasize about the importance of education and have always encouraged me to pursue my dreams.

On Monday 3rd March 2003, I was born in PGH (Nyeri Provincial General Hospital) and I was 3 kilograms 15oz and my star sign is Taurus. I took a day and a half to be born and Mum lost so much blood she had to get two pints. I am very glad I am called Joseph because the other names I was to be called were Gareth or Ryan and I don't fancy those names very much. My name was finally decided when my Mum and Dad both voted and Joseph or rather as my peers call me 'Jose' was the name they liked best. It is very strange but I was baptized at the age of three with my brother at Jet Catholic Church on 28th March 2006. "Aunts, Uncles, Cousins, and Grandparents came to Jet Catholic Church for the Christening then came back to our house for lunch" Mum recalls.

Growing up, our household was always filled with laughter, stories, and support. My siblings and I share a close bond; we often spend our weekends playing games, watching movies, or going on family outings. We also have a family tradition of cooking a special meal together every Sunday. Each member of the family gets to choose a dish, and we all pitch in to prepare it. This not only brings us closer but also teaches us the value of teamwork and cooperation.

My grandparents also play a significant role in my life. They live in a nearby town, and we visit them often. They share stories from their past, which are always fascinating and filled with life lessons. These stories have instilled in me a deep respect for our family history and traditions.

“Close friends had their baby Christened at the same time which made it special” adds Mum. I was an all-right baby at night waking about every four hours for milk.

“Fortunately, Jose slept well at night because I needed a rest having pushed the pram all day as this was the only time that Jose didn’t cry,” says Mum.

“Joseph was the second child in the history of Nursery to be recommended to leave. This was because he was so miserable and cried most of the time” Mum also says.

I cut my first tooth at about four and a half months old round about the time of a normal baby. I started walking when I was eight and a half months old on 10th December 2003 almost to the eve of Christmas and my first shoes were blue and had clowns on the front. I am very accident prone as Gran says: “Poor Joseph has to be taken to A&E on three occasions as a toddler with severe cuts on his head.”

Additionally, I relish playing soccer with my friends during recess. Soccer not only keeps me physically active but also teaches me the importance of teamwork and sportsmanship. I am a member of our school's soccer team, and we practice every week. We have participated in several inter-school tournaments, and each game brings a new lesson and experience.

Expressing my creativity through drawing and painting is another hobby I am passionate about. I enjoy experimenting with different colors and techniques, and I have a collection of paintings and sketches that I am very proud of. Art allows me to express my thoughts and emotions in a way that words sometimes cannot.

Moreover, I find delight in assisting my parents in the kitchen. We often explore new recipes together, trying out dishes from different cuisines. Cooking with my parents is not just about making food; it's a time of bonding, laughter, and learning. I have learned to make several dishes on my own, and my family often praises my culinary experiments.

Exploring nature through hiking and picnics with my family is yet another activity that fills me with happiness. We frequently visit nearby parks and nature reserves. These outings provide a break from the hustle and bustle of daily life and offer a chance to connect with nature. We enjoy observing different plants and animals, and I often bring my sketchbook along to capture the beauty around me.

When I was about one and a half I started talking and my first words were 'mum' and 'dada'. I had the Chicken Pox and some colds but apart from that I wasn't ill.

Bananas and baked bread popularly known as chapati were my favorite solid food but I like yoghurts as well.

My favorite toy was a plastic tool box and I was always clutching a tool and my Gran said I even took it on holiday to Ol Pajeta National Reserve with me.

Chapter Two

Earliest Memories

It was Christmas Eve, and I found myself wide awake, filled with anticipation. The next day was going to be special; I was about to receive my very first games console—a PlayStation. The thought of finally plugging it in and diving into a world of gaming thrilled me to no end. My room was shrouded in darkness, with only a faint glow slipping through the crack in my door, creating an uncanny atmosphere around me. Unable to escape my excitement, I began imagining all the games I wished to play before eventually drifting off to sleep.

When morning finally arrived, I switched on my light and was jolted awake by the realization that it was already 2 o'clock in the morning. "Oh no!" I exclaimed to myself, feeling a mix of excitement and impatience. "I still have five long hours to wait before I can wake up Mum and Dad! What am I going to do?" I attempted to get back to sleep, but my excitement consumed me.

So, I made my way silently to the landing to see if Santa had indeed made his rounds during the night.

To my delight, I discovered that he had arrived! My stocking was overflowing with an assortment of presents, and a smaller stocking filled to the brim with candies stood nearby. The sight was almost unbearable—I longed to tear into everything right then and there, but the wait was disheartening. I returned to my bedroom, feeling a twinge of disappointment, and snuggled back into bed. I tossed and turned, my mind racing with thoughts of wonderful gifts until, at long last, the clock struck seven.

With a rush of energy, I threw off my blankets and leapt out of bed. I bounded into my parents' room, clutching my stockings, before sprinting back to the pile of presents that had overflowed from them. The sheer joy of the moment propelled me into a frenzy as I shouted, "It's Christmas! It's Christmas!" My enthusiastic outburst stirred the entire household and somehow even managed to awaken my brother, who was notoriously difficult to rouse from slumber—he could sleep through just about anything!

After the initial spirited chaos, the atmosphere gradually calmed down. The only sound that filled the air was that of wrapping paper being ripped apart followed by my brother's gleeful exclamations of, "Look what I got! Look what I got!" My heart raced as I searched for my own treasure—a shiny new PlayStation. Finally, I found it.

In a rush of excitement, I called for my dad, who stumbled into my room still groggy from sleep, ready to help me set it up. The anticipation built as I fished around for a game, slid it into the console, and prepared to immerse myself in a gaming adventure. Hours flew by as I played, truly experiencing one of the best Christmases I could have ever imagined.

Speaking of cherished memories, I also recalled a delightful day spent in Millport. The weather was gorgeous, with the sun shining brightly in the sky as my family and I gathered at the harbor alongside my close friends and their parents, eagerly awaiting the arrival of the ferry. The sight was picturesque, complete with fluffy clouds drifting by and birds soaring overhead. My friends—Ouma and Mugo—and I amused ourselves with our yo-yos, basking in the warm glow of the day.

When the ferry finally arrived, we couldn't contain our excitement as we hopped aboard. The half-hour ride promised plenty of fun, and we leaned over the railing, watching the white foamy waves crash against the sides of the boat. The anticipation of our arrival at Millport filled our hearts.

Once we disembarked onto the sandy beach, we stepped off the boat and walked towards the kerb. We were all buzzing with energy as we made our way to a bike shop to rent bicycles so we could explore the island. After securing our rides, Ouma and I asked the shopkeeper when we had to return—the answer was two hours. Eager to ride and see all the sights, we couldn't wait to set off.

However, the day took an unexpected turn. While making our way back to our parents, we attempted to cross the road. With many cars parked all around, we stood in an empty parking space when, suddenly, a taxi began backing up into that very spot. The chaos erupted as our parents shouted warnings to us. In a split second, I jumped back, and I could feel the tension dissipate as a collective sigh of relief filled the air once I was safely out of harm's way.

After that minor scare, I crossed the road without any issues, and we continued our adventure. We spent the rest of the day biking around the island, exploring its beautiful landscapes, and enjoying the freedom that came with cycling. The sun shone down on us, and the laughter of friends accompanied every pedal stroke. It truly was a wonderful outing.

Both the memories of that magical Christmas morning and the fun-filled day in Millport will always hold a special place in my heart. Each moment was filled with excitement, joy, and a sense of adventure that shaped my childhood. Christmas remained a time of wonder and happiness, and fun outings with friends only added to the tapestry of treasured moments I carry with me.

Chapter Three

Earliest School Memories

I have a profound passion for learning, which is reflected in my enthusiasm for certain subjects at school. Mathematics captivates me with its intricate problem-solving challenges and the logic behind numbers. I enjoy tackling difficult problems and finding solutions. My teacher often gives me extra problems to solve, which I gladly take on.

Science fascinates me as I unravel the wonders of the natural world and conduct exciting experiments. I love learning about different scientific concepts and seeing them in action through experiments. My favorite topics include astronomy, where I learn about planets and stars, and biology, where I study different forms of life.

Art provides me with a medium to express my creativity freely. I enjoy our art classes, where we explore various forms of art, including painting, sculpture, and digital art. Each project is an opportunity to learn something new and push my creative boundaries.

Physical Education allows me to engage in sports and maintain an active lifestyle. I enjoy participating in different sports activities, from soccer and basketball to gymnastics and swimming. These activities keep me fit and teach me the importance of staying active and healthy.

I remember my first day at school when I was in P1. I wore a shirt and tie but I hated it so much my mum let me wear the school polo shirt. I didn't always like school and sometimes I didn't want to go. I soon settled down though, once I got to know my teacher, Mrs. Leslie, who was very nice. The classroom was about 12 meters long and wide, there were about 30 people in my class it was very stuffy and it didn't smell of anything really but people. I remember sitting next to a boy called Ross Maitland who actually lived down the street from me. My worst subject was language because I didn't like writing stories very much. I liked it when it came to reading though because I liked reading stories and the first book I read was 'Robbie's First Day at School' and I liked this book because it was about his first day at school.

I also liked lunch, because I could see people from older classes I knew and I loved the jam sandwiches that I had for lunch. We were also allowed to have lunch outside when it was sunny, round the other side of the school at the benches. I also liked lunch because the next step was playtime.

In loved play time because I could run about, get fresh air, and see pals from other classes. I knew quite a lot of people from other classes and I began to like them even more when the classes were muddled up. I liked playtime most in the summer though because you were allowed to go on the grass and play. My favorite games in the playground were ‘tag’ and ‘wars’ where we pretended we were space ships and tried to blow each other up.

Sometimes though I don’t like being in the playground because one day I was playing tag with some girls that I took a run to school with when I tripped over somebody’s school bag that was lying on the ground, luckily though I had my school bag on otherwise it would have been really painful. Everyone was laughing at me, even some mums because it was before the bell had rung. I went red because I was so embarrassed. I ran over to the mum I was with and she gave me a hanky to rub my hand. Then the bell rang and I went into school feeling happy again.

Chapter Four

My Great Gran

My great gran, Nessie Arthur, had a very interesting life and this is part of it. My great gran Nessie Arthur was born in May 1901 and lives most of her life in Perth, Scotland where she dies aged 93 (in 1994).

When she was 10 her mother died of influenza. Her father was too busy to look after her and there were no nurseries to go to so she went to stay with her Aunt Katie in Edinburgh. In early 1913 (when she was 12) Aunt Katie took her to Canada to live. There were no airports at that time so they crossed the North Atlantic on the Cunard Linear Mauretania, a journey that took almost 14 days. I was told it was very stormy and must have been scary for a young girl as it was only the year before that the Titanic had been sunk.

The start of the 1st World War in 1914 stopped Nessie returning home to visit her father and as there were no international telephone calls, the only way of communicating was by letter.

When the War ended, Nessie managed to come home in 1919. By now she was 18 and started to work in Jenner's Department Store in Edinburgh.

Whilst she was working, Nessie met and married William Arthur in 1931. A few years later my Granny was born and then a son Sandy Arthur.

It must have been very hard to leave her dad and travel to a new country but she did and that was my great gran's life.

Chapter Five

Childhood Bumps

When I was 10, I had a rough day at school. My lunch was untouched because of a severe stomach ache and a pounding headache. I went outside but felt too unwell to play, so I retreated to the bathroom and vomited. I considered going to the medical room but felt briefly better and went back out to play, only for the pain to return. After enduring the long recess, I went back to the classroom, where the heat worsened my headache. In the middle of my work, I vomited again and informed Miss Milne, then headed to the medical room to lie down, wishing for home-time. Feeling slightly better, I returned to class but soon vomited a lot just before the final bell. I met my mum outside, avoided the bus, and went home to rest on the sofa.

Despite my mum's advice to sleep, I couldn't, so I sat thinking until I felt better and watched TV. Dinner was light with just tortillas and milk. Before bed, my mum gave me hedex for my headache. I lay awake for hours, scared by the shadows in my room, but eventually fell asleep. The next morning, I still felt bad, so I stayed home. My mum's friend Jill visited with a comic and a Star Wars video, which helped pass the time. By night, I felt much better and fit again. The following morning, with the sun shining and birds chirping, I was fully recovered and ready to return to school.

My Likes

I have certain affections and dislikes. I adore my PlayStation because it keeps my pals entertained when they come over with a wide selection of games and occasionally some of their own. Without it, I think I would grow bored too. I also adore my favorite hue, a blue Nike T-shirt. It has a lovely pattern with checkered squares and a Nike tick, and it makes me feel cool.

I feel confident wearing it because it's comfy and lightweight. My mom needs to wash it a lot because I wear it so often. My third favorite item is my GameBoy. It's the ideal companion for long, dull rides because it's compact and lightweight, fits effortlessly in my pocket.

Growing up as an African American kid, I also had a deep appreciation for the stories and traditions that my family shared. My grandmother's tales of our ancestors were particularly captivating. She had a way of bringing history to life, painting vivid pictures of resilience, strength, and triumph. These stories instilled a sense of pride and identity in me, reminding me of the rich heritage I belonged to.

In addition to these cherished items, I had a few more things that I loved during my childhood. One of them was my collection of comic books. Superheroes like Black Panther and Storm were my idols. Their stories of bravery and justice resonated with me deeply. I spent countless hours reading and re-reading their adventures, imagining myself fighting alongside them. The comic books were more than just stories; they were sources of inspiration and empowerment.

Another favorite was my bicycle. It was my ticket to freedom, allowing me to explore my neighborhood and beyond. Riding my bike with friends, racing down the streets, and feeling the wind on my face were some of the most exhilarating moments of my childhood. My bike adventures were a blend of joy, discovery, and a bit of mischief, creating memories that I still cherish today

My Dislikes

Now, on to the things I detest.

Firstly, there's my Adiadora jumper. Despite it being too small for me, my mother insists that I wear it while my other jumpers are being laundered. It's a dreadful shade of grey and white, which

I find absolutely horrible. The discomfort from its tight fit only adds to my aversion. Every time I put it on, I can't help but feel constrained and annoyed. I've tried expressing my dislike for it, but my mother always responds with, "It's just until the laundry is done." Unfortunately, those words don't make wearing it any easier.

In addition, I detest tomatoes. Their taste is awful, and the inside is repulsive with all those seeds. It's a pip-fest that I find completely unappealing. Every time I bite into a tomato, the texture and taste make me cringe. The worst part is that they seem to be ubiquitous on pizzas, which I find absurd. I can't understand why anyone would ruin a perfectly good pizza with tomatoes. They are slimy, mushy, and overpower the other flavors I actually enjoy. Despite numerous attempts to acquire a taste for them, my aversion only seems to grow stronger with each encounter.

Cucumber is another food item I can't stand. It has an awful, sour taste that I find completely off-putting. Every time I try to eat it, I'm reminded of how much I dislike it. The texture is just as unpleasant as the taste, making it impossible for me to enjoy. Whether it's in a salad or served as a snack, cucumbers always ruin the experience for me. I've tried them in various forms—sliced, diced, or even pickled—but nothing can mask that sourness I find so revolting.

Lastly, I detest children's songs. They used to blare from my brother's room every night, which kept me up and made it difficult to sleep. The repetitive, high-pitched tunes were nothing short of torturous. It didn't matter how tired I was; the incessant nursery rhymes would penetrate through the walls, leaving me wide awake and irritated. Thankfully, his tape recorder broke, and he has not listened to them since. The silence that followed was a huge relief. I can finally enjoy a peaceful night's sleep without the constant annoyance of those grating melodies.

These dislikes, though varied, have each left a strong impression on me. Whether it's an ill-fitting jumper, unpleasant foods, or annoying sounds, they all contribute to my list of things I'd rather avoid in my daily life.

Looking ahead, I harbor aspirations and dreams that fuel my ambition. I aspired to become a veterinarian, by studying veterinary medicine, driven by my love for animals and the desire to help

them. I have always been fascinated by animals, and the idea of being able to care for them and ensure their well-being is something I am passionate about.

Furthermore, I dream of exploring different cultures by traveling around the world. I am curious about how people live in different parts of the world, their traditions, and their way of life. I hope to visit various countries, learn new languages, and immerse myself in different cultures.

I am committed to making a positive impact in my community through volunteering and contributing to meaningful causes. I believe that even small actions can make a big difference, and I want to be a part of efforts that improve the lives of others. Whether it's through community clean-up drives, helping at animal shelters, or participating in educational programs, I am determined to give back to the community.

Continuously seeking knowledge and personal growth remains a steadfast goal of mine. I want to keep learning and improving myself, both academically and personally. I believe that education is a lifelong journey, and I am excited to see where this journey takes me.

I sincerely appreciate your interest in learning more about my personal and professional journey thus far. My experiences at Snow View Complex Academy have shaped me into the person I am today, and I am grateful for the opportunities and support I have received along the way. I am filled with eager anticipation for the adventures and opportunities that are yet to come as I continue to explore life with intense curiosity, passion, and unwavering determination. Thank you for taking the time to read my autobiography.

High School

Introduction

Joseph Wachira is my name, I reside in Nyeri County. After completion of my primary school studies from Snow View Academy, I left for home. There I was to pass through the rite of passage as it is a norm in the Kikuyu culture for young boys entering in their adolescent stage. After this period, what followed was the short wait for admission to high school of your choice according to your grades in primary school. On the 1st of December 2016, the results of the final year exams were released. I was very anxious of the grades I had scored. Despite the anxiety, I was still confident that I had done me and my parents proud. Having scored 2 marks less of my intended 400 mark target, I felt it was still a good work done. Every Tom, Dick and Harry was fascinated with the marks I had score and so was me.

A short, brief and melodious party was organized to celebrate the success. I had a strong belief that truly my hard work did not go in vain. After this followed a period to wait for the allocation to the high schools of our choice. My good excellent performance led to receiving a letter of admission from Baricho Boys High School. Being far from home gave an opportunity to explore the world and interact with other people from different walks of life.

Baricho High School is the only national public secondary school in Kirinyaga. It is located in Kenya, Central Province specifically in Ndia Constituency Kirinyaga County. The school was founded in 1960 as a local learning center and since then, with time it has grown to become one of the leading public secondary schools not only locally but also nationally. It is the led by the principal Mr. Bernard Kinga, a very benevolent man who has ambition for academic, physical, social, moral and spiritual growth for his students. With its centralized and strategic location on the windward side of the slopes of Mt. Kenya, it provide a serene and good environment for learning. Its motto 'High We Aim' keeps the students and teachers not forgetting the support staff at bay and motivated to ensure its continued growth.

School Admission

Being admitted there was the best thing to happen in my life. This schools taught me so much that I did not know about life like resilience and consistency. I come from a family that has shaped me to whom I am today, so blending in and adaptation was a walk in the park.

My parents both carry a legacy of hard work and resilience, having been raised in humble beginnings together with my siblings with scarce opportunities for higher education.

Despite their struggles, they instilled in my siblings and I the importance of education, navigating the treacherous waters of life with love, support and a few life lessons along the way.

Neither of my parents graduated from higher learning. In spite of this, both had acquired technical craft hands-on skills from the local technical institutions during their time. Their focus, however was not on the paths they had missed out but on nurturing our passions. I have found memories of my parents helping me with homework always there to answer questions, but never pressuring me to achieve stellar grades. This laid-back approach only came clear to me later in high school, when I realized that the true value of education went beyond grades and accolades. Their unconditional support gave me the confidence to pursue my interests, making them exceedingly proud when they saw my gradual accomplishments during that period in school.

Education became a turning point not just for me but for my entire family. Seeing my siblings and I navigate our academic lives inspired our parents a lot. This inspiration saw my sister return to school at the age of 35. She pursued an accounting degree, a monumental achievement that gave our family a sense of pride. My parents, having come from households where higher education was rare, instilled in us the belief that with hard work and determination, we could achieve whatever we set our minds to.

Growing up, we didn't have much in the way of material comforts. My parents faced financial constraints, and we often lacked spending money or reliable transportation. However, our home was filled with warmth and love, which more than compensated for those material limitations. Our weekends were often spent playing in the backyard, sharing stories, and learning from one another. Through my parents' permissive parenting style, I felt nurtured and cared for, knowing they trusted me to make the right choices as long as I remained focused on school.

School Life

As I began my secondary school life, my love for sports began to flourish, especially soccer and handball. My fondest memory is from form one, during my third term of playing; it was the first time I stood on the court, nervous and excited. While I didn't shine that day, the spark within me ignited. I realized that basketball was my passion—a game that combined physical activity and

strategy, enthralling me from that moment onward. Reflecting on those early days, I decided then to take my basketball career seriously. What started as a fun pastime transformed into an essential part of my identity.

High School Hobbies and Activities

Practicing shooting hoops in the school sports center and spending hours watching my favorite players on the school television during entertainment hours brought me happiness and taught me the value of dedication and hard work. Over the years, I improved my skills and joined school teams. Whether we won or lost, the camaraderie formed with teammates was priceless. Our shared experiences off the court translated into our gameplay, developing a bond that extended beyond the sport itself.

At Baricho Boys High School, I adopted a more serious approach to my studies while juggling basketball, handball and various extracurricular activities. I wasn't the top student, but I was committed. Participating in team sports taught me about the essence of dedication and the importance of working collaboratively with others. Each game boosted my confidence and established friendships that enriched my high school journey.

My involvement in clubs like Red Cross, Young Farmers, Wildlife & Tourism and journalism helped elevate my high school experience. I was also a member of the school scout troop, where I learned valuable life skills like discipline and leadership qualities. Each of these experiences contributed to shaping my worldview, teaching me about responsibility and teamwork.

High School Memories

One of the most defining moments of my high school experience came when I discovered my interest in journalism. Writing became an outlet for expression, allowing me to voice thoughts and ideas that were important to me. I eagerly engaged in writing articles for the school newspaper, which taught me the significance of research, clarity, and communication.

One of the pivotal moments during my high school years was the annual Science and Innovation Fair. My classmates and I dedicated countless hours to our projects, testing hypotheses and building models while nurturing a spirit of friendly competition. I chose to explore sustainable agriculture, creating a small hydroponic system that captured the attention of both judges and fellow students.

This event highlighted the importance of teamwork, as we frequently collaborated with our teachers and peers to refine our ideas and presentation skills. The thrill of presenting our projects to an audience and receiving constructive feedback was not only nerve-racking but deeply satisfying, fostering my love for learning.

Giving back to the society

In addition to academic events, I was fortunate to attend various leadership and community service functions. One initiative that left an indelible mark was the annual charity walk organized by our school's Red Cross Club. The purpose of the walk was to raise funds for local children's hospitals and support educational programs for underprivileged youths. Gathering early on a brisk Saturday morning with friends and community members, we donned our club T-shirts and set out on a route that brought us through familiar streets while encouraging camaraderie and shared purpose. The feeling of giving back heightened my sense of community and further motivated my commitment to social responsibility.

Academic Achievements

The multitude of academic competitions I engaged in also included the renowned Brookside National Mathematics Olympiad. Competing against the best students from various schools was exhilarating, filled with both anxiety and excitement. My preparation involved after-school study sessions with my math teacher and late-night problem-solving with two close friends. Although I did not win a top prize, the journey of preparing together taught me invaluable lessons about resilience, determination, and the value of hard work.

Engaging in these initiatives not only expanded my network but reinforced my conviction that education is not only beneficial on a personal level but can uplift the entire community. I found motivation in helping others gain access to opportunities that might have been out of reach without support, fueling my resolve to contribute positively to society.

Academically, I participated in contests for subjects I was passionate about—math, English, and agriculture. Though not all competition ended in success, each challenge taught me resilience. The most gratifying part of school wasn't just the academics, but the memories forged with friends during late nights of studying and prep for competitions. I made it a point to explore and engage with all aspects of school life, finding that every experience contributed to my personal growth.

Outside academic pursuits, I also had the opportunity to attend cultural events, such as the school's annual Talent Show, where students showcased everything from music to dance to poetry. Participating in the Talent Show was a highlight of my high school experience. I performed a spoken word piece that discussed my experiences navigating life with hopes and dreams.

It was nerve-wracking getting up on stage, but the supportive environment encouraged me to express myself more confidently. We celebrated each other's talents, which fostered a strong sense of camaraderie and acceptance within our school community.

Moreover, I played a key role in organizing the end-of-year interschool debate competition. Leading the organizing committee required collaboration with faculty members and fellow students, from planning themes to logistics. The weeks leading up to the event were hectic, filled with meetings and rehearsals, but the sense of accomplishment following the success of the event was beyond rewarding. Witnessing the debates unfold, filled with passionate arguments and eloquent exchanges, reinforced my belief in the importance of dialogue and diverse perspectives.

In my high school years at Baricho Boys High School were deeply enriched by a variety of occasions and functions, both academic and extracurricular. Through competitions, leadership initiatives, community service, and cultural celebrations, I learned invaluable skills in teamwork, communication, and resilience. These experiences not only laid the groundwork for my academic pursuits but also cultivated lasting friendships and cherished memories that I will carry with me as I embark on new challenges in the next stages of my life. Each moment helped shape my identity and further ignited my passion for education and community involvement.

As I matured, I began reflecting on my goals and aspirations. I established a clear vision for what I wanted in my life, and I learned the importance of effective planning. I recognized various aspects I wanted to change, such as being more organized in my studies and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. This strategy became a guiding principle as I approached both my academic and personal endeavors. I faced several hurdles throughout my academic journey. Instead of succumbing to negativity, I focused on transformative learning experiences. I understood that each obstacle was an opportunity for growth, helping me evolve. With the unwavering support of my parents and mentors in my life, I discovered the importance of self-belief and resilience.

Over time, I recognized the importance of being specific about what I wanted in life. My “self-discovery” journey involved noting down those aspects I didn’t want—like inconsistency or feeling unfit—and focusing on what I genuinely desired. I wanted to be healthy, both mentally and physically, and I craved the stability that comes from persistence and hard work.

This practice of identification and affirmation became my roadmap, guiding me through both triumphs and challenges.

Adopting a more positive attitude toward life helped me confront difficulties with resilience. I learned that challenges were simply part of the journey, and they shaped me into a better individual. If there were setbacks, I viewed them as stepping stones rather than disruptions. Encouraged by supportive parents who trusted my decisions, I was able to press forward, unscathed by the occasional bumps in the road.

Despite the joyful moments and accomplishments, my life was not without its struggles. My family faced challenges, just like any other, but we embraced them as learning opportunities. I realized early on that life is an ever-changing journey filled with ups and downs. I learned how to appreciate the small things, finding joy even in adversity, and recognizing that every experience, good or bad, played a significant role in crafting who I was becoming.

I also saw firsthand that everyone has their issues; life isn’t defined by the perfection of those around us but by our ability to adapt and grow. Witnessing my mom’s journey through college sparked a fire within me. Her perseverance showed me the strength of determination and motivated me to set ambitious goals for my future, inevitably paving my path forward as I approached graduation.

Now, as I approach graduation, I look back at my high school journey with pride and gratitude. I am immensely thankful for every experience—both the highs and lows—that shaped my character and helped me discover who I am. My positive attitude continues to guide me, keeping me motivated as I face numerous new challenges on the horizon. I have a supportive family and friends who encourage me to pursue my dreams, and I hope to inspire others with stories of my musical and academic journey.

Looking ahead, my goal is to continue evolving, whether through education, basketball, or personal endeavors. As I step into adulthood, I carry with me the lessons learned, the struggles overcome, and the love of those who have cheered me on in this incredible journey. I am blessed beyond measure and equipped to face life's challenges with a grateful heart, looking forward to a bright and hopeful future. Thanks to God, my family, and the experiences that have shaped me, I am excited about what lies ahead!

Campus Life

Introduction

Hello, my name is Joseph Wachira, an undergraduate student at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology. My life at campus is somewhat.... With no right word for the same, here is my story from the very beginning to where I am now. The experience has been amazing and adventurous at the same time.

Pre-School Preparation

It was just after completing of my high school studies from Baricho High School, I received a letter from KUCCPS. This letter indicated the school which I had chosen earlier in my fourth year in high school, but things took a different turn. With some help from people, I decided to take the plunge and reapply to different universities and different courses. The process was both daunting and thrilling. I had no idea what to expect or how things would unfold, but with extensive research, aid, dedication and preparation, I applied to several schools that aligned with my interest and goals. This included; DeKUT (Dedan Kimathi University of Technology), JKUAT (Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology) just to mention a few.

Applying to tertiary schools was a rigorous and tedious task. I spent countless hours researching different universities, reading about their programs, campus culture and alumni success stories. I carefully crafted my personal statement, highlighting my academic achievements, extracurricular activities and aspirations. Some documents like KCSE leaving certificate, KCSE result slip and other crucial attachments also played a key role to ensure I drove closer to qualifying for a vacancy in the institutions. I sought feedback from my high school teachers, mentors, peers, friends and family to ensure my application was strong enough for my eligibility to enroll at the university. The most nerve-wrecking period was after submitting my application waiting for a message from my choice campuses. All along I remained focused and hopeful.

One busy day, while I was at home doing some chores I received a message from KUCCPS (Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service) indicating my acceptance in the university. Once I received acceptance letters, it was time to make some critical decisions about which school to attend, which classes to enroll in, and how to manage the financial aspects, including tuition fees and other expenses. I visited several institutions, attended orientation sessions both physically and via virtual meetings and spoke with several students and faculty. When making these decisions, there were so many factors to consider such as location, cost of tuition, academic programs offered, extracurricular activities available, and more.

After much deliberation and many fruitful conversations with my family members and other parties involved, I settled for Dedan Kimathi University of Technology.

About School

This school has an excellent reputation. Being named after a famous hero, liberator and Mau Mau freedom fighter, I was sure that this was the right place for me. Furthermore, the institution is in my home county. It is located in Nyeri County, Nyeri Town Constituency, and Mathari-Kiganjo Ward. Situated 6 km from Nyeri along the Nyeri – Nyahururu highway between Mt. Kenya on the Western side and Aberdare Ranges on the Western side, it spans about 1,000 acres consisting of 350 acres of natural forest, 350 acres of mature coffee and 300 acres to open space for expansion. The institution is well equipped with the right facilities and equipments to enhance students' studies hence providing holistic and quality education as well as indulging students in different extra-curricular activities including clubs and societies.

School Life

With everything set and good to go, I reported to the university in the main campus. Once I was accepted into college, it was time for me to make the transition from high school life to college life; this included finding housing and getting involved in extracurricular activities on campus. For accommodation and housing, I decided that living in the dorms would be best since it allowed me to form close connections with fellow students while also having access to resources like libraries or computer labs that can be difficult to find off-campus.

Academics

At the university, I was to pursue a bachelor's degree in Information Technology. I was motivated to take this course due the use and growth of technology in current time of life where any entities leverage the use of technology including; AI (Artificial Intelligence), ML (Machine Learning), IOT (Internet of Things), Data Science etc.

When classes commenced, everything changed. It felt like there were millions of thing happening at once; lectures, extracurricular activities, exam preparation, it was overwhelming and at the same time making me anxious. The first weeks were a blur of attending orientation events, meeting new people and navigating the campus environ. However, as time passed, I settled into a routine and began to make friends along way. Joining different clubs and societies participating in campus activities helped me feel more connected and engaged.

Academically, university was a significant step up from high school. The coursework which began with basics of Information Technology and introduction to computer basics, laying a strong foundation for more advanced topics. It was more challenging to adapt and expectations were much higher. I quickly had to develop new study habits and time management skills to keep up with the rigorous curriculum. For success, I had to craft new study strategies, prioritize tasks, create study schedule. Late night study sessions and early morning reviews became a routine, emphasizing the importance of consistency and discipline. Group projects, presentations pushed me out of my comfort zone, teaching me valuable collaboration, team work and communication skills.

Collaboration with course mates, brainstorming ideas, and coordinating efforts to meet the tight deadlines not only fine-tuned my skills but also helped me develop strong interpersonal skills. My lecturers, professors were resourceful and supportive and approachable, always willing to offer guidance and feedback .Office hours became essential, allowing me to seek clarification on challenging topics.

In there, I have also discovered numerous resources that made university life more manageable. The university offered numerous resources, including a wealth of books, journals and online materials in the library. Tutoring centers provided additional help in challenging subjects, study groups offered a collaborative environment for extra practice, and career counselors assisted in

planning the next steps after graduation. These resources were invaluable in helping me navigate the academic demands of university and plan for my future career.

The best part of campus has undoubtedly been forming new connections with people from all over the world; individuals with diverse backgrounds but similar interests in learning and growth. These relationships have helped me grow personally, professionally, and academically. I attended networking events, joined professional organizations, and participated in workshops and seminars. These experiences broadened my horizons and opened up new opportunities. Beyond the classwork, I participated in workshops, seminars, tech meetups and hackathons exposing me to the latest trends and innovations in IT. Boot camps were crucial in bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world applications, JITU and DeHUB were some of the organizations that helped enhance my technical skills.

Outside Class

Outside of academics, I was actively involved in various extracurricular activities. I joined the computer club, where I first encountered programming and developed a passion for coding. I also played soccer and participated in the debate club, journalism club, cultural club honing my public speaking skills and teamwork. These activities provided a balanced university experience, allowing me to pursue my interests and develop new skills.

Achievements

I developed the application using different technology stack. For the user interface (UI/UX), I used figma and canva to design aesthetic, clean, responsive and interactive customer intuitive designs. Figma was most suitable for the web design. I followed and applied all the rules of design. The designs were user-centric and focused on the needs and preferences of the users. The designs observed visual hierarchy hence organizing elements to guide the users' eye. Canva was best suitable for logo design.

This tools was the most preferable for its dynamic nature. It allows users to make logos form existing templates and even design some from scratch as per users' preferences. Leveraging this technology, the collaboration of these two tools led to an informative cohesive design.

I used the MERN (MongoDB, Express, React JS, Node JS) stack technology to build a robust system including tailwind CSS for styling. The system was meant to handle big data hence incorporation of APIs (Application Programming Interface), machine learning played a key role in the development. The system was meant to help manage different operations in the clinic and digitize the services. This included; patient booking appointments, automated payment and billing, generation of reports, and inventory management.

I have worked on other personal projects gaining hands-on skills in the tech industry. With a GitHub account repositories, I am proud to say that for sure I have grown academically. Overall, the academic challenges of university life significantly contributed to my personal growth making me more resilient, adaptable and confident. I developed skills like problem solving, collaboration and team-work, effective communication skills, which are valueless and will server me well in the future. Life in campus has taught me to appreciate life; learning is continuous and that perseverance and positive attitude can overcome even the most daunting occurrences.

As I continue my academic journey, I am excited about future opportunities to delve deeper into specialized areas of Information Technology, undertake more complex projects, and contribute to innovative solutions. The foundation I have built during my university years has prepared me well for the future, and I look forward to leveraging my skills and knowledge to make a meaningful impact in the tech industry.

My journey as a campus student has been nothing short of extraordinarily; from selecting which university I wanted to attend, making friends through extracurricular activities on campus, developing skills through academics. All these experiences have shaped me into whom I am today. When I look back upon my path towards becoming an excellent campus student, I am grateful of every time and moment I spent there. It has enabled me succeed both during school and after graduation. If you are considering pursuing higher education yourself then take heart knowing each step you take forward is another towards success. A piece of advice, it would be wise to choose an institution which best fits your preferences both academically and outside class. Best of wishes!

Now that I stand on the brink of graduation, I reflect on my journey with immense pride. I am grateful for my parents' guidance, the support of my friends, and the experiences that have helped

shape me into who I am today. As I look ahead, I carry their lessons with me, knowing every encounter—whether triumphant or challenging—has played a vital role in crafting my identity.

Conclusion and Aspirations

I envision a future where I can combine my love for education, writing, and community service to make a meaningful impact. My aspiration to further my education and explore my interests remains unwavering. With a positive outlook, reinforced by the loving support of my family, I feel equipped to embrace the next phases of my life, cherishing every experience that lies ahead.

Growing up in a nurturing environment, my childhood was enriched by supportive parents who valued education despite not having completed high school themselves. They always encouraged my sister and me to pursue our dreams. My love for basketball emerged in fifth grade, where I found joy and motivation in the game, ultimately shaping my passion for sports.

During my primary and high school years, I was deeply involved in extracurricular activities. From leading school clubs like Scouts and Young Farmers to participating in academic contests in subjects like math, English, and agriculture, I embraced every opportunity to learn and grow. My commitment extended to sports like soccer and rugby, where teamwork and discipline were paramount.

Transitioning to university was a significant leap. The rigorous coursework and higher expectations pushed me to develop effective study habits and time management skills. Group projects and presentations were challenging yet rewarding, enhancing my collaboration and communication abilities. Support from lecturers, professors, and fellow students played a crucial role in my academic journey.

As I now navigate my campus life at Dedan Kimathi University, I am keenly focused on my studies and actively engage in various student organizations. My experience has reinforced my passion for technology and innovation, leading me to pursue a career in software development. My ambition is to secure an internship to gain practical experience and further hone my skills.

Looking ahead, I aspire to make a significant impact in the tech community, both locally and globally. I envision myself contributing to technological advancements and fostering a culture of

innovation. My ultimate goal is to inspire and mentor the next generation of tech enthusiasts, helping them realize their potential and achieve their dreams.